

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /088 W

-----231134 010171 /14

R 231040Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9531

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USUN NEW YORK 1746

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, TH, VN

SUBJECT: THAI RELATIONS WITH VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA

1. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OBERG TOLD EMBOFF FEB 23 THAT MFA UNDERSECRETARY WONG PHONNIKON CALLED ON VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO LAOS DINH NHO LIEM DURING THAI VISIT TO VIENTIANE LAST WEEK. HE CLAIMED THE TWO HAD A "GOOD CONVERSATION," ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED HE WAS UNAWARE OF ITS CONTENT. FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT PACHARIYANGKUN CONFIRMED TO PRESS FEB 23 THAT SUCH MEETING HAD IN FACT OCCURRED, SUBJECT OF WHICH WAS THAI OVERFLIGHTS OF VIET-NAM. HE SAID LIEM STATED THAT SRV WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF THAI DELEGATION TO VIET-NAM TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION, ONCE THAILAND AND LAOS CONCLUDE AN OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENT, WHICH UPPADIT NOTED SUBSEQUENTLY OCCURRED.

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2. OBERG CONFIDED TO EMBOFF THAT HE MET SRV VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH IN SWEDEN DURING LATTER'S VISIT THERE AT THE END OF JANUARY. THACH ASSURED HIM THAT SRV CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA IN GENERAL AND THAILAND IN PARTICULAR, ALTHOUGH HE WONDERED WHETHER ATMOSPHERE WAS NOW RIGHT FOR IMPROVEMENT WITH THAILAND. TO MAKE HIS POINT RE VIETNAMESE

INTENTIONS, THACH OBSERVED THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND DID, INDEED, SEND A DELEGATION TO HANOI TO ATTEND THE FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS IN DECEMBER (ONE OF THE DELEGATIONS WHICH ATTENDED SECRETLY). IN A MEETING WITH UNNAMED SRV OFFICIALS, DELEGATION REQUESTED CONSIDERABLE VIETNAMESE ASSISTANCE FOR THE THAI INSURGENCY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE TIME IS PROPITIOUS FOR IT TO MOVE FORWARD. THACH ADDED THAT VIETNAMESE LEADERS DID NOT AGREE TO THE REQUEST. OBERG COMMENTED THAT ONE NEVER KNOWS HOW MUCH TO BELIEVE OF WHAT A COMMUNIST TELLS YOU, BUT HE SAID HE THOUGHT THACH WAS BEING FAIRLY HONEST.

4. PRESENTING A JARRING NOTE TO ANY POSSIBLE-THAI-VIETNAMESE RAPPROCHEMENT WAS THE REPORT BROUGHT BACK FROM HANOI TEN DAYS AGO BY TWO VISITING NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR R. B. TAYLOR TOLD SEATO MEETING FEB 23 THAT THE VIETNAMESE (APPARENTLY NGUYEN CO THACH) WERE QUITE DISCOURAGING ABOUT PROSPECT FOR RELATIONS WITH THE THAI. MP'S WERE REPORTEDLY INFORMED THAT RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING WITH RTG UNTIL OCTOBER 6, AFTER WHICH THAI PERMITTED USG TO REOCCUPY BASES HERE, AN ACTION THE VIETNAMESE CONSIDER WILL BAR ANY EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN HANOI AND BANGKOK.

5. WITH RESPECT TO CAMBODIA, OBERG REPORTED THAT RTG REQUESTED PRC TO INTERCEDE WITH PHNOM PENH TO ASK THAT CAMBODIA REDUCE TENSION ALONG BORDER. WITHOUT GIVING SOURCE, HE SAID HE IS CERTAIN THAT CHINESE HAVE NOW CONVEYED SUCH A MESSAGE. MEANWHILE, FOREIGN MINISTER
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UPPADIT ANNOUNCED FEB 23 THAT MFA WILL COMPLETE AT WEEK'S END A WHITE PAPER ON THE KC JAN 28 ATTACKS ON VILLAGES ON THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER. RTG PLANS TO HAVE THAI UN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIBUTE IT TO UN MEMBERS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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